

Bede opens new HQ

Bede plc and Bede Scientific Instruments Ltd, has opened its new 27,000 sq ft premises at Belmont Business Park, (Durham, DH1 1TW, UK (Tel: +44 - 191-332-4700), to accommodate expanded capacity and staffing.

Bede plc held the opening ceremony on 18 January 2002 at the new premises which are located on the outskirts of Durham City. The building was officially opened by Dr John Bridge, Chairman of One North East.

and carry out customer training, office accommodation and meeting rooms with state of the art audio visual facilities.

Over 200 guests attended the ceremony including customers, suppliers, staff and local government bodies.

Dr John Bridge, Chairman, One North East said, 'I am delighted to have been part of this momentous occasion for Bede plc. The company has been successful in growing from

East especially as over 86% of its products are shipped to overseas markets. Bede plc should be a shining example to other companies within the North East, if not the whole of the UK.'

Dr Neil Loxley, CE of Bede plc said, 'The official opening of our new premises is an important landmark in the history of a company that has faced challenges head on and grown stronger over the past 24 years.



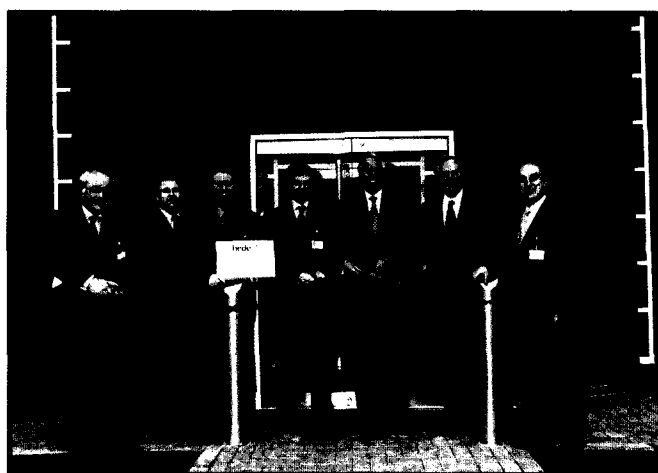
Bede plc needed this 27000 ft² facility to accommodate growth in staff numbers and demand for its products.

Staff moved to the new custom-built facility, which covers 27,000 sq ft, in December last year. The company needed to move into bigger premises to allow it to cope with an increase in demand for its market leading products. It was given the opportunity after floating on the LSE on 6 November 2000, raising £30 m in an institutional placing, including £17.5 m for the company. Since flotation Bede has recruited 46 new staff, mostly at the HQ.

The new premises house the operations of Bede plc and Bede Scientific Instruments Ltd. The manufacturing area includes clean production facilities (Class 100,000 and Class 100). Other areas include a suite of application laboratories to demonstrate Bede products

strength to strength in a very volatile marketplace. A combination of outstanding expertise in X-ray technology, dedicated staff and good management has been pivotal in this success. I am pleased the company has chosen to stay in the North

The building will allow the company to maintain a strong position in our existing markets, as well as bringing new opportunities to diversify into other markets. I hope the new facility will be a launch pad for the company's future successes.'



The new building, in Durham, UK, was officially opened by Dr John Bridge, Chairman of One North East.

BOC Edwards acquires Hydromatix

BOC Edwards (Wilmington, MA, USA) has acquired 100% of Hydromatix, Inc., a manufacturer of high-efficiency, process-critical liquid purification systems based in Santa Fe Springs, CA, USA.

Hydromatix technology will be integrated into the Chemical Management Division of BOC Edwards to form a liquid abatement group.

Hydromatix helps companies in the surface finishing industry to recycle rinse waters with a minimum amount of waste, allowing them to attain zero-discharge status. Prospective projects are evaluated with site-specific data, and supported by system capacity calculations, producing a predictable volume of regenerate waste that allows proper planning for subsequent treatment of effluent waste. Hydromatix customers are involved in plating, circuit boards and galvanizing, as well as high-tech fields such as disc and semiconductor packaging.

"The Hydromatix acquisition will position BOC Edwards as a leading provider of application-specific liquid abatement solutions to the emerging copper and solid waste streams from semiconductor CMP and electro-chemical deposition processes, along with arsenic and HF waste streams," said Neels Kriek, president of the Chemical Management Division. "We intend to very rapidly deploy Hydromatix product lines through our unique global sales and support organization, reinforce our existing OEM programs, and develop integrated abatement solutions with our Exhaust Gas Management group."